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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

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Marketing Reports Division

821 Market Street - Room 700

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Western Region

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week ending July 28, 1944

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FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apricots: Fresh apricots continue to move in heavy volume to the wholesale markets. Demand has become slower and prices have declined from those of the week previous, although good quality fancy packs drew higher prices up to \$3.00 per lug in San Francisco.

Berries: The first blueberries on the Portland market this season were reported this week. Twelve-basket crates sold at \$4.75. On the San Francisco market blueberries were selling at \$5.00 per crate. Other berries in the northwest sold at ceiling prices.

Cantaloups: Fob shipping point sales on cantaloups at Phoenix, Arizona, during the week ranged from \$2.50 to \$2.80 per crate of 27, 36, and 45 melons jumbo size. The shipping season there is about over. Fob prices at Fresno, California, ran from \$2.80 to \$3.25 per crate.

Wholesale prices on western markets ranged from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per crate.

Washington (Yakima Valley) cantaloups are now on the northwest markets. Harvest in Colorado and Utah is expected to start about the middle of August while the Spokane area in Washington will not be ready before the last of August.

Peaches: Fob prices in Upper San Joaquin Valley points in California closed the week at \$1.40 for Elbertas in lugs of 60 to 70 peaches per lug, and for Hales, 55 to 60 and larger, \$1.40 to \$2.00 per lug. Trucked-in shipments on the wholesale markets varied in price all the way from 90 cents to \$2.50 per lug, depending on the grade and variety.

Varieties now on western markets are Docker, Foster, J. H. Hale, Ideal, Crawford, Elberta, Hectar, St. John, Strawberry, and Tuscan.

Onions: Onions are plentiful on all wholesale markets, and prices are unchanged from last week. Demand is somewhat slow.

Potatoes: Shipments of potatoes are continuing heavy, approximately 650 cars daily for the entire U. S., of which 160 cars daily originate in Western Region states. Western wholesale prices on Friday covered a range of \$2.60 to \$3.75 per 100 pounds U. S. #1 grade.

Tomatoes: In the Northwest, Wapato, Washington, tomatoes are increasing in supply and prices have declined during the week. Both California and Oregon are now shipping tomatoes interstate from 28,200 acres in California and 1,100 acres in Oregon. To those amounts, Washington adds 1,700 acres and Utah 500 acres for fresh shipment. The estimated acreage of tomatoes planted in California and Utah for processing is 138,100 acres, from which there may be a crop of 833,400 tons compared with the 1933 -- 1942 averages of 77,600 acres and 420,000 tons.

Lettuce: Lettuce is continuing to move out of the Salinas Valley, California, and during this past week has averaged 155 cars daily. Fob prices at Salinas closed the week at \$2.00 per crate of 4 to 5 dozen heads.

The early lettuce crops in Colorado, Oregon, Idaho and Washington have been light and are about all harvested. The later crops in Colorado and Washington appear favorable and are expected to more than take care of local needs. Fall harvest plantings are now being made in the Salinas area in California.

Western wholesale markets showed a wide range in prices on Friday, with prices advancing in the northwest. The range was from \$1.25 to \$3.25 per crate of 4 to 5 dozen heads of good quality stock with the Portland market reporting the highest range in prices.

Grapes: Supplies on western wholesale markets were light during the week, and prices were little changed from the previous week.

#### DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: Production of butter continued to decline in all of the production areas except the North Atlantic where there was an upswing. The full effect of the increase in butter ration points has not yet been felt, probably due to civilian reserves. Many retailers and suppliers have indicated inability during the past week to meet consumer demand.

Eggs: The need for storage space for fruit now occupied by eggs has reflected an unsteady condition in the western areas on storage eggs and on the lower grades and grade "B" stock. Prices advanced as much as one cent the first of the week in some of the western markets and held fairly steady on the better grades during the remainder of the week.

Poultry: Paying prices to producers advanced slightly in some sections of the West for leghorn and colored laying stock, and although receipts continued heavy there is indication that the peak of the season in receipts, has been reached.

#### LIVESTOCK AND MEATS:

Cattle: Eastern wholesale houses appear to be well supplied with cow beef, and in some instances carcasses were selling considerably below ceiling. In the west, however, cow and steer beef moved at or near ceiling prices.

Hogs: Receipts of hogs on the twelve principal markets for the week totaled 407,700 head compared with 389,275 head for the previous week. On western markets prices moved upward 25 to 75 cents per 100 on most classes.

Sheep: Drying pastures have created a heavy "pressure to sell" movement in the Northwest, and receipts on all western markets have been heavy. Prices have not declined in proportion to heavy receipts except on the old, lower grades and cull stock.

#### GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: On June 30, 1944 the CCC was holding 14,000,000 bushels of the 1943



wheat crop under loan in farm storage, compared with 122,000,000 bushels held under loan June 30, 1943. During the 1943 crop year, farmers placed 129,800,000 bushels of wheat under loan, of which they redeemed 115,000,000 bushels.

Prices on western markets declined from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents to 7 cents per 100 pounds, and in the middle western markets there was a drop of from one to two cents.

Barley: OPA has announced new ceiling prices on barley, effective August first. For Seattle and Portland the new ceiling price for No. 2 barley is \$1.13 per bushel, approximately \$47.08 per ton. In San Francisco the new ceiling price was set at \$1.23 per bushel, approximately \$51.25 per ton, bulk basis.

Beans: The U. S. acreage of dry edible beans indicated for harvest this year is 2,162,000 acres, compared with 2,400,000 acres in 1943. Approximately 450,000 acres are estimated for California, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, about 90 percent of the acreage for last year. The crop in the west is reported to be in very satisfactory condition. Continued warm weather is needed to insure a good crop, however.

This acreage of lima beans for processing has been increased to the point that this year's estimated acreage is one of the largest in history.

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